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OPENING STATEMENT OF REP. DUNCAN HUNTER
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HEARING ON INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

The hearing will come to order.

This morning, the Military Research and Development Subcommittee will receive testimony from a series of innovative, U.S. companies that are developing leading edge technologies, and proposing military applications of those technologies that address a variety of defense modernization needs. These companies will demonstrate to members of the subcommittee that they are capable of producing vital defense products more rapidly, and at lower costs. In the new defense era, it has become imperative to provide small, innovative companies the opportunity to gain entry into the defense acquisition system.

The Department of Defense is now examining how best to transform our armed forces to meet the nation's needs in the century ahead. Many have concluded that this transformation will depend, in large part, on making better use of innovative technologies being generated throughout the private sector, including both defense and non-defense companies.

Meanwhile, the defense industry has experienced its own transformation over the last decade, and one of the unfortunate consequences of the numerous mergers and consolidations is the disturbing shrinkage of the innovative research and development base within those remaining companies. Our witnesses today will demonstrate that small companies are often capable of producing leading-edge technologies that offer great advantages for defense programs. However, companies not already part of the recognized defense industrial base often experience difficulty penetrating defense markets and dealing with the complex regulations and procedures that are required by the Department of Defense.

Each of you here today have experiences relating to this problem, and we look forward to discussion of your technologies and your suggestions that might make it simpler for non-defense companies to deal with the Department of Defense.

In order to be most efficient today, I encourage each of you to submit your prepared statements for the record rather than read them, and to simply speak to us directly about your technologies and experiences. Some of you have brought demonstrations. We look forward to seeing them. We are plowing new ground

today by holding this type of hearing, and I hope you all will bear with us as we try to make it run as smoothly as possible. We have with us today several small companies from around the country, which have developed technological solutions much faster than the traditional industrial base.

We would like to have each of you briefly describe your program in testimony and I encourage members to ask any questions they might have. I will attempt to keep things moving, so that each of you have a chance to be heard; and then we will open the floor to questions for any and all at the end.

Our first witness is Mr. Nick Karangalen from Trident Systems, who has done some very interesting work in developing software that maximizes the performance of small commercial displays so that they can be effectively used by our ground forces. Mr. Karangalen, the floor is yours.

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